

Ridley Park, PA -- On Thursday, January 25, Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-7), a former Fire Marshal in the Navy and a member of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, visited the Ridley Park Fire Station and watched drills.

"In the Navy I learned: duty, honor, courage," noted Joe. "Those values served me well in my first position as a Fire Marshal in the Navy and I came to see then, what I continue to value now - the selfless commitment of so many first-responders here at home. There is no doubt that one of the greatest services in my district comes from first responders who are on the frontlines protecting us. That is why in my first week I proudly joined the Congressional Fire Services Caucus. I believe we have a duty to do all we can to help our local fire departments so they can respond to all types of hazards, and the Ridley Park Fire Station is no exception. In the past several months, I have also been pleased to meet with so many firefighters who went through the same training I did at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard firefighting training."

Joe spoke with the firefighters about mutual interests in supporting a strong fast responder force, with appropriate resources and training. Joe took a tour of the fire station and its equipment, and discussed how the Ridley Fire Station supports its needed capabilities from various revenue sources, and pledged his own support.

Joe plans to visit all the fire and police stations in the district. On Friday night, Joe is attending the Delaware County Police Chief's Association dinner, another important part of our District's first response.

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever to serve in the U.S. Congress.*

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